2022 Connecticut Community Readiness Survey Results: Region 4 North Central Amplify, Inc.

Developed by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Center for Prevention Evaluation and Statistics at UConn Health August, 2022







### Connecticut Community Readiness Survey (CRS) Objectives



- Assess perceived substance use problems at the local level;
- Measure community readiness for prevention and health promotion:
  - Community attitudes about alcohol and drug use, mental health promotion, and suicide and problem gambling prevention;
  - Community support for prevention;
  - Perceived barriers to substance misuse prevention;
  - Rating of community readiness;
- Develop a tool and methodology that DMHAS can use:
  - For ongoing needs assessment;
  - To inform substance misuse prevention planning and mental health promotion at state and regional levels;
  - To identify needs for training and technical assistance;
  - To provide data to evaluate the impact of SPF-based initiatives.

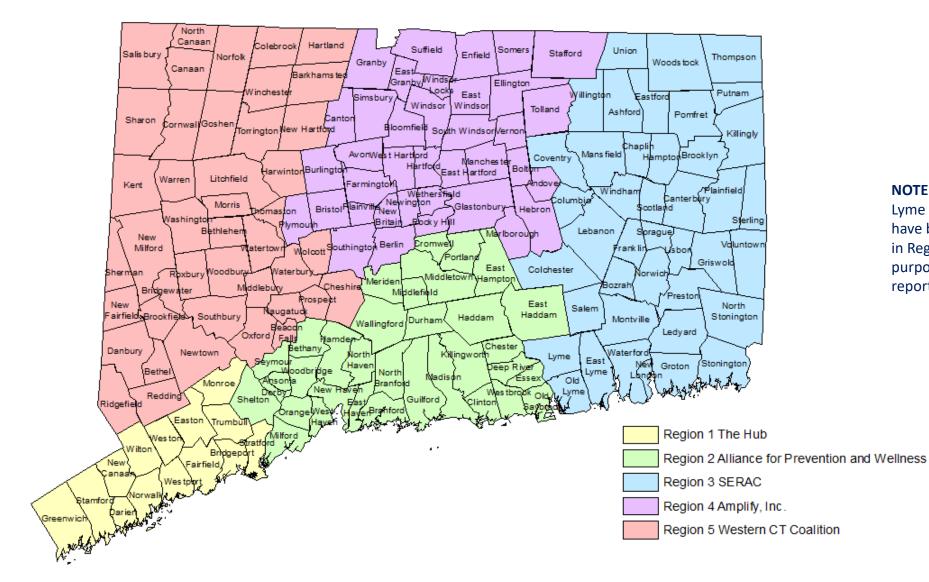
### Connecticut Community Readiness Survey (CRS) Approach



- Instrument developed through a consensus process involving DMHAS, its Resource Links, and UConn Health/CPES;
- Administered biannually statewide since 2006;
- Web-based survey implementation;
- CT Clearinghouse coordinates e-mail distribution of the survey;
- Regional Behavioral Health Action Organizations identify 5-10 key informants per town/city to survey;
- RBHAOs conduct active outreach and follow up with key informants to encourage participation and maximize responses;
- Response tracking and data analysis by the DMHAS Center for Prevention Evaluation and Statistics at UConn Health;
- State and regional results are disseminated to RBHAOs to support planning;
- This approach resulted in 1202 responses to the 2022 CRS survey statewide, a 76.6% response rate based on the established key informant survey sample, with representation in all 169 Connecticut communities.

### DMHAS Regional Behavioral Health Action Organizations (RBHAOs)



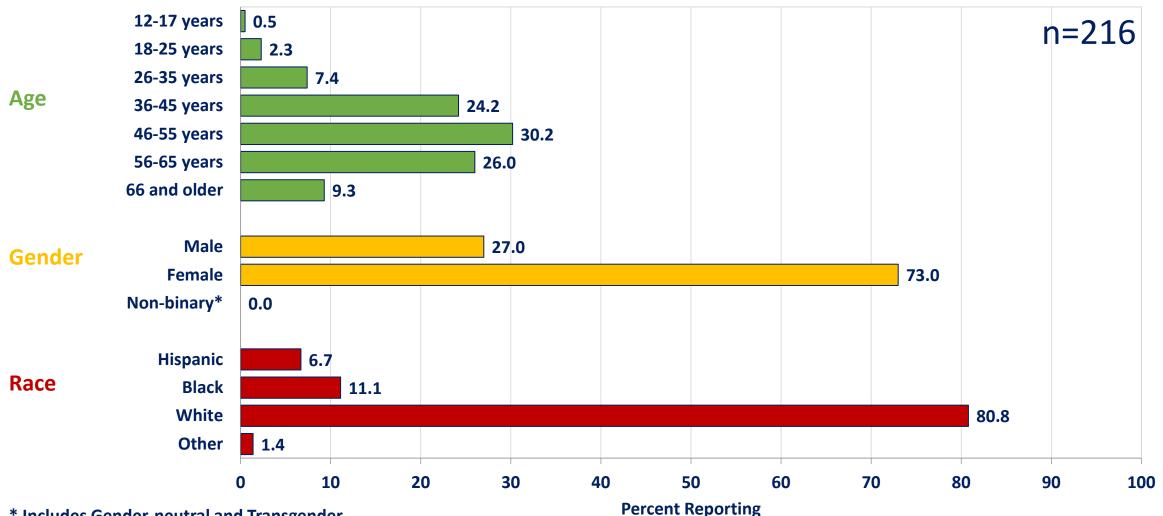


#### NOTE:

Lyme and Old Lyme have been included in Region 3 for the purposes of this report.



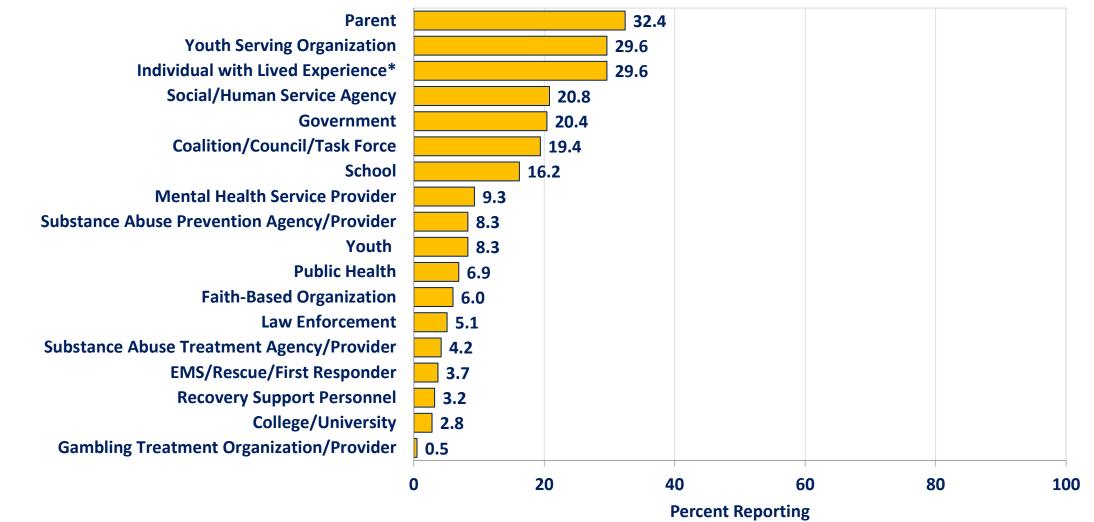
### **Key Informant Demographic Characteristics:** Amplify, Inc. CRS, 2022



\* Includes Gender-neutral and Transgender



### Key Informant Stakeholder Affiliation: Amplify, Inc. CRS, 2022



# Substance Misuse

### Problem Substances of Greatest Concern for Age Groups, According to Key Informants: Amplify, Inc. CRS, 2022

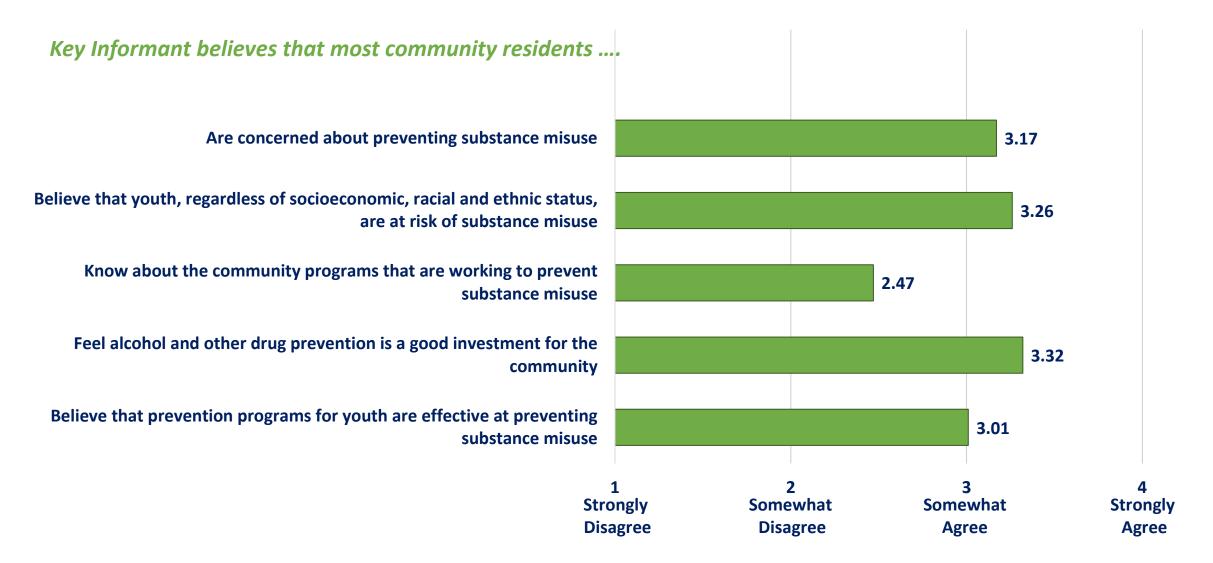


Heroin/Fentanyl 2.8 100 10.8 12.3 20.0 90 Cocaine/Crack 2.0 0.1 40.6 19.3 80 0.0 0.0 Marijuana/Cannabis/ 33.4 Percent Reporting 70 28.8 Hashish/THC 0.0 60 5.3 0.0 0.0 Vaping/ENDS 35.8 50 10.7 1.6 Tobacco/Cigarettes 31.0 **40** 2.3 11.8 30 52.1 3.8 0.0 Alcohol 36.6 20 22.2 16.6 10 0 12-17 years old 18-25 years old 26-65 years old 66 or older

Prescription drugs

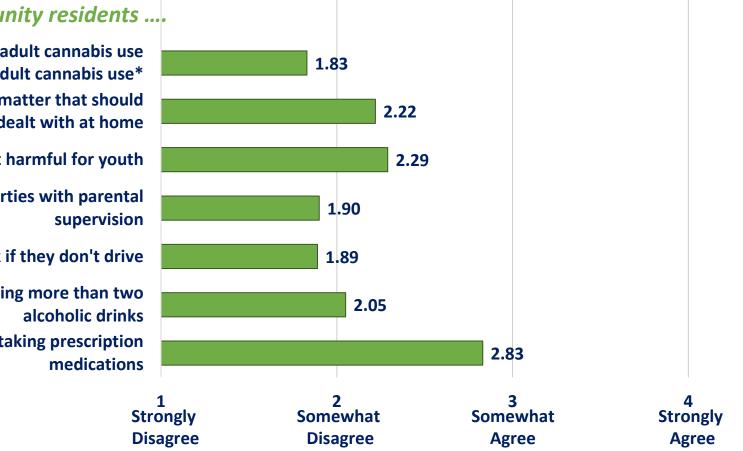


### Community Attitudes Toward Substance Misuse Prevention [Q15]: Amplify, Inc. CRS, 2022





### Community Attitudes Toward Substance Misuse Prevention [Q15]: Amplify, Inc. CRS, 2022



Key Informant believes that most community residents .... Are concerned about the effects of CT's legalization of adult cannabis use on youth/young adult cannabis use\* Believe the use of alcohol and other drugs is a private matter that should be dealt with at home Think that the occasional use of marijuana is not harmful for youth Feel that youth should be able to drink at parties with parental

Believe that it is okay for teens to drink if they don't drive

Feel that it is okay for adults to drive after having more than two alcoholic drinks

Think that it is risky to drink alcohol while taking prescription medications

\*including increased access, decreased perception of risk/harm, and changes in social/family norms



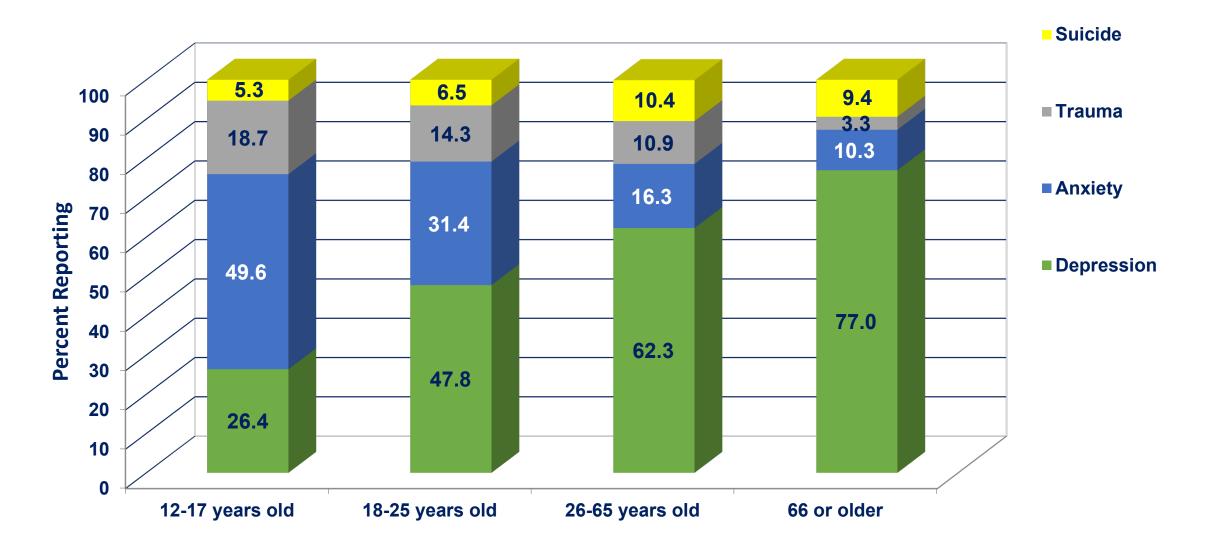
### Perceived Barriers/Assets to Substance Misuse Prevention Activities in the Community [Q18]: Amplify, Inc. CRS, 2022

Availability of leadership	48.1		12.7		39.2
Community members with time or willingness to volunteer	57.6			<b>5.</b> :	<b>1</b> 37.4
Political support for substance misuse prevention	43.8	1	.0.9	45.3	
A strategic plan to address substance misuse prevention needs	37.2	16.1	4	46.7	
Financial resources to address substance misuse in the					
community	52.2		5.	.8 42	2.0
Knowledge of effective strategies to address substance misuse problems	44.3	!	5.6 <b>50.</b> 0	)	
Community buy-in that substance misuse is an important issue	50.0		8.7	4	1.3
Trained staff that are appropriate for the population(s) they serve	36.6	7.6	55.7		
Data to determine/support the extent or magnitude of the issue	35.8	11 <b>.2</b>	52.9		

# Mental Health

### Mental Health Issue of Greatest Concern for Age Groups, According to Key Informants: Amplify, Inc. CRS, 2022







3.32

3.42

3.24

3 **Somewhat** 

Agree

### **Community Attitudes Toward Mental Health** [Q16]: Amplify, Inc. CRS, 2022

Are concerned about improving mental health in their communities 3.17 across the lifespan Would support early identification of mental health problems in children and youth Are concerned about access to mental health services for adults Are concerned about access to mental health services for children and vouth Believe that mental health problems are a private matter to be 2.27 addressed at home Are uncomfortable discussing the mental health of themselves or their 2.84 families Believe that sufficient mental health supports for students are available 2.19 in educational settings

Strongly

Disagree

2.05

**Somewhat** 

Disagree

#### Key Informant believes that most community residents ....

Believe that sufficient mental health resources\* are available for older adults (65 and older)

> Strongly Agree

\*services, supports and linkages



### Perceived Barriers/Assets to Mental Health Promotion Activities in the Community [Q19]: Amplify, Inc. CRS, 2022

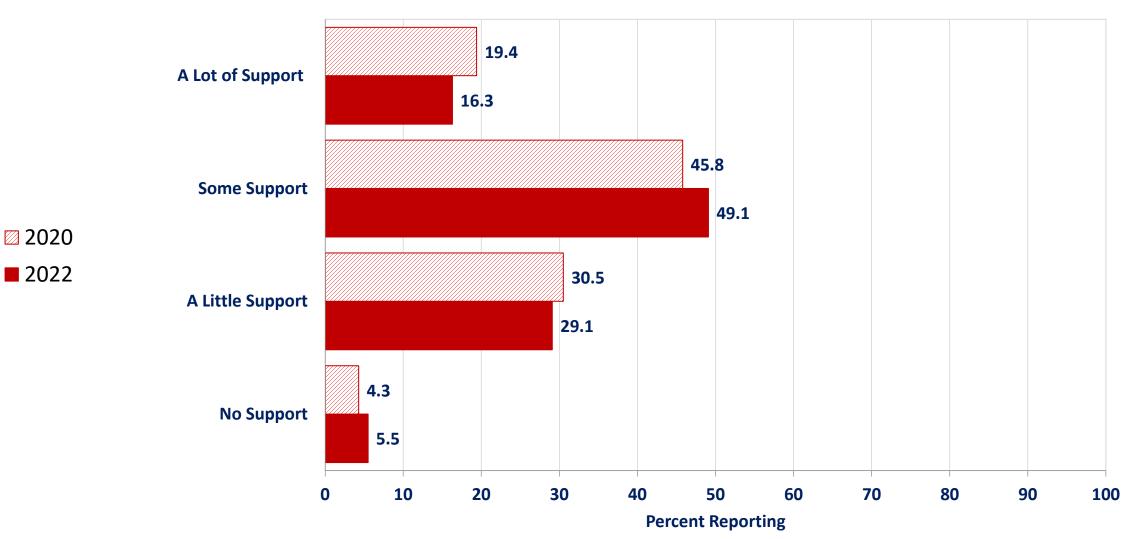
Availability of leadership	45.5
Community members with time or willingness to volunteer	53.6
Political support for mental health promotion	39.6
A strategic plan to address mental health needs	55.6
Financial resources to address mental health in the community	56.8
Knowledge of effective strategies to address mental health	47.7
Community buy-in that mental health is an important issue	42.0
Trained staff that are appropriate for the population(s) they serve	46.0
Serve	
Data to determine/support the extent or magnitude of the issue	41.1

			45.5		20.0		
	45.5		15.5		38.9		
	53.6			7.1	39.3		
	39.6	15.5		44.9			
	33.0	15.5		44.9			
	55.6			14.8	;	29.6	
	56.8			9.3	33	q	
	50.0						
	47.7		4.9	47.4			
			•				
	42.0	12	.2	45.8			
,							
	46.0		7.8	46.3			
	41.1	22.	9		36.0		

# Suicide

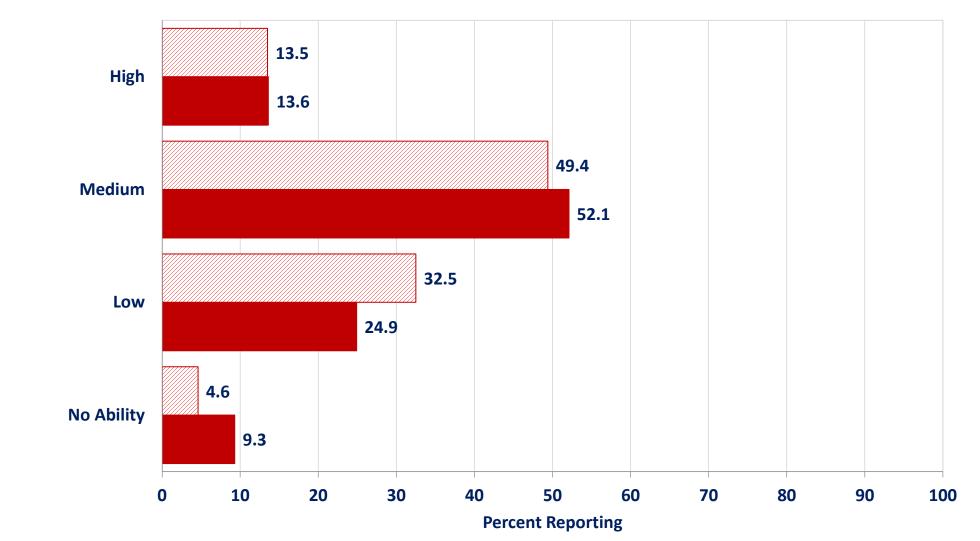


## In your opinion, how much community support is there for suicide prevention efforts? [Q25]: Amplify, Inc. CRS, 2020-2022





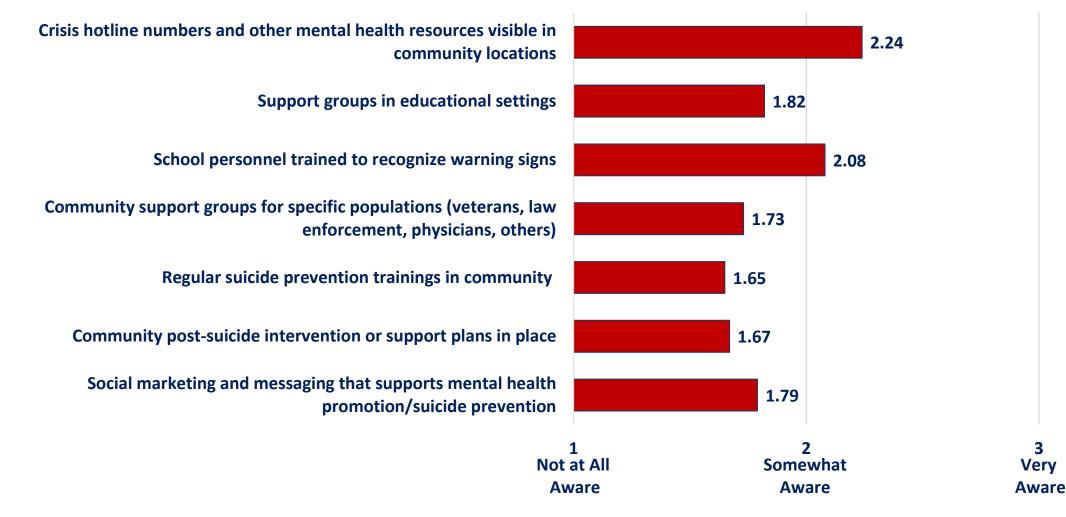
## How would you rate your community's ability to implement suicide prevention efforts? [Q26]: Amplify, Inc. CRS, 2020-2022





### Awareness of Suicide Prevention Supports in Place in the Community [Q27]: Amplify, Inc. CRS, 2022

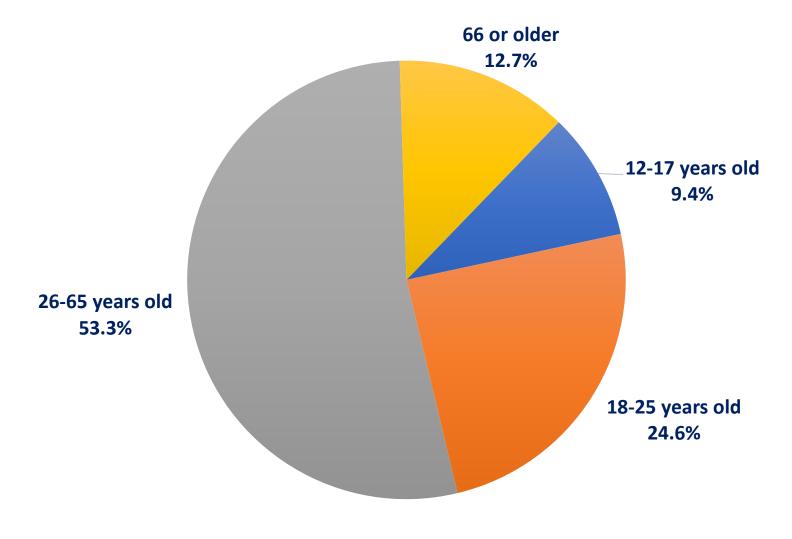
#### Key Informant awareness that the following are in place in the community....



# Problem Gambling

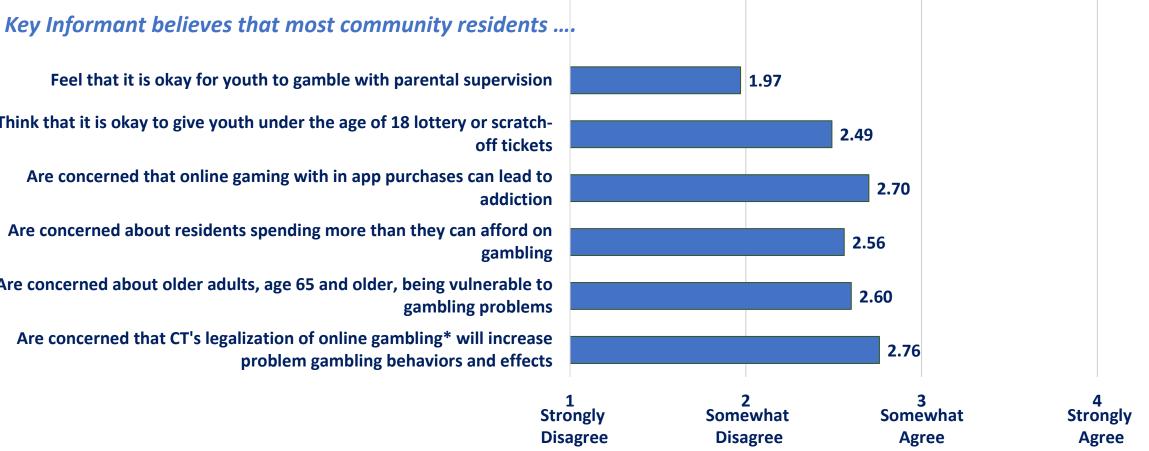
Perceived Age Group of Greatest Concern for Problem Gambling Behaviors and Effects, According to Key Informants [Q14]: Amplify, Inc. CRS, 2022







### **Community Attitudes Toward Gambling and Gaming** [Q17]: Amplify, Inc. CRS, 2022



Feel that it is okay for youth to gamble with parental supervision

Think that it is okay to give youth under the age of 18 lottery or scratchoff tickets

Are concerned that online gaming with in app purchases can lead to addiction

Are concerned about residents spending more than they can afford on gambling

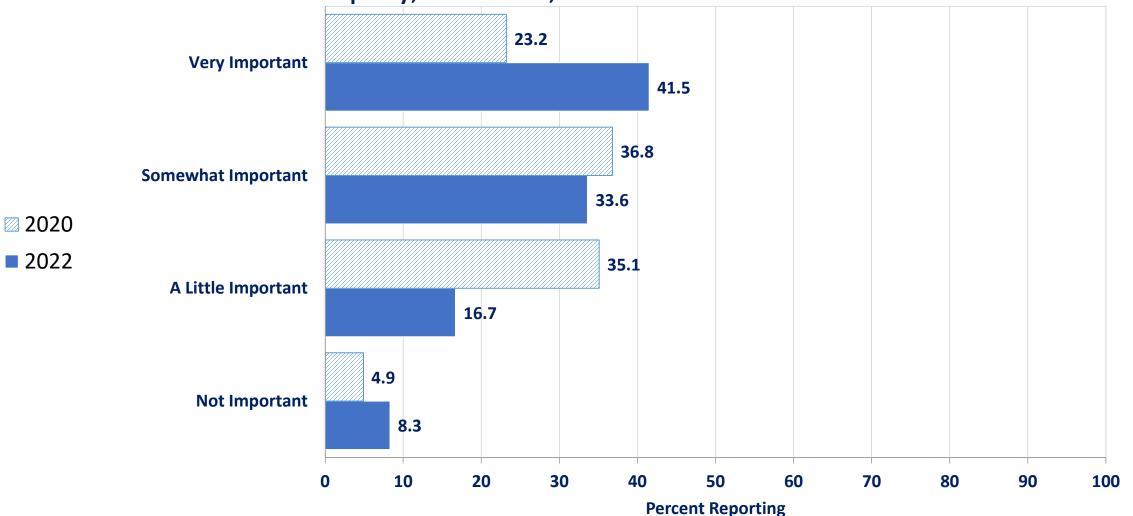
Are concerned about older adults, age 65 and older, being vulnerable to gambling problems

Are concerned that CT's legalization of online gambling\* will increase problem gambling behaviors and effects

\*sports betting, online casino gambling, and online lottery

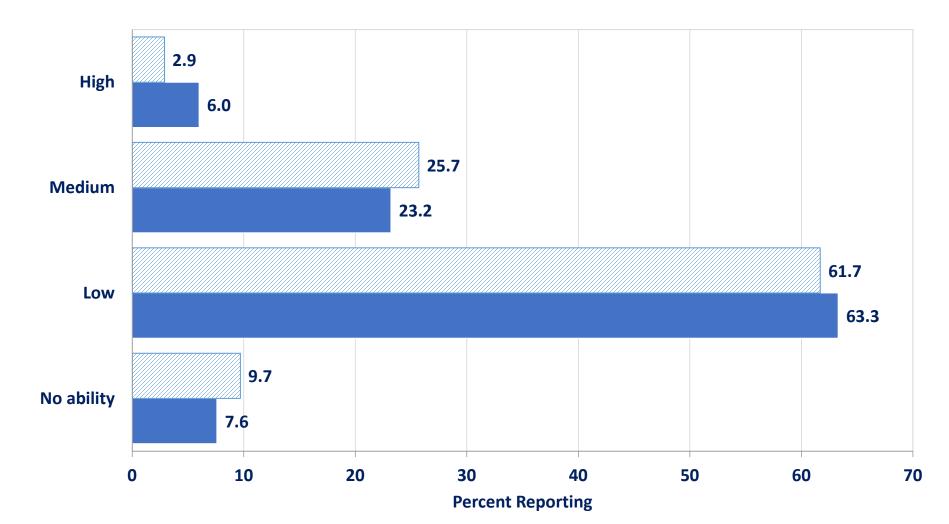


### How important is it to prevent problem gambling/gaming addiction in your community? [Q20]: Amplify, Inc. CRS, 2020-2022





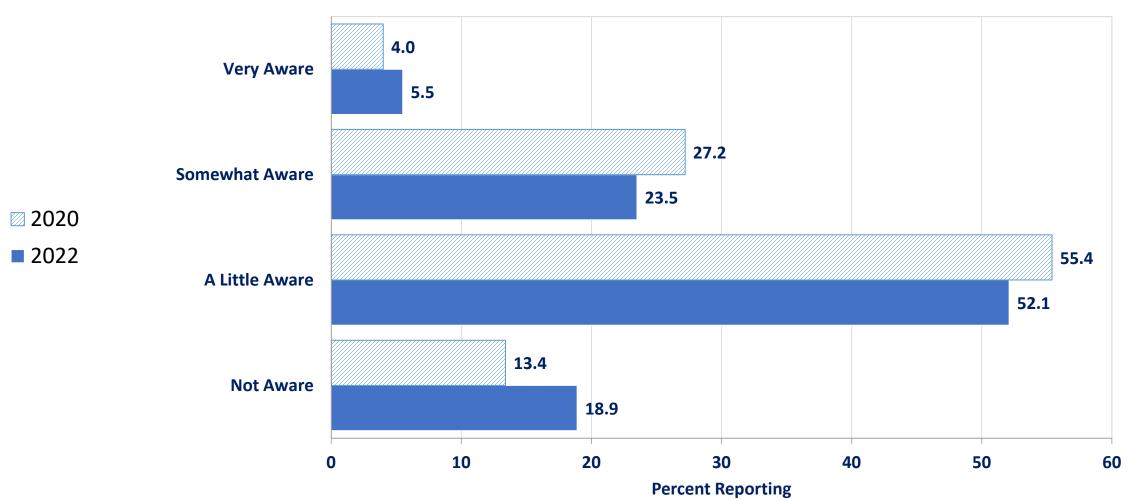
How would you rate your community's ability to raise awareness about the risks of problem gambling/gaming addiction? [Q21]: Amplify, Inc. CRS, 2020-2022



☑ 2020☑ 2022

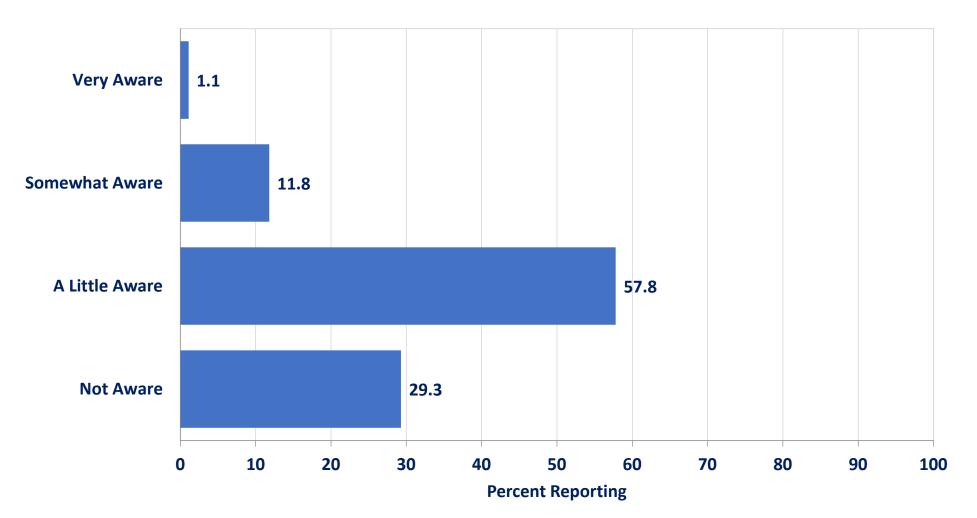


How aware are community residents that gambling activities\* can become an addiction for some people? [Q22]: Amplify, Inc. CRS, 2020-2022

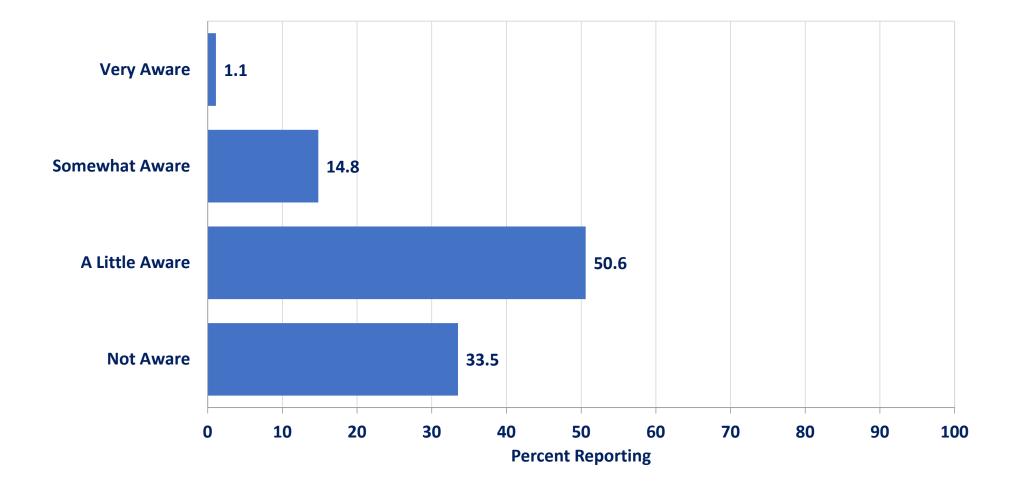


\*e.g. scratch-off tickets, lottery, sports betting, Keno, casino games, dice, cards, loot boxes and skins in gaming, etc.

How aware are community residents that there is treatment available for individuals experiencing problems with gambling such as individual and group counseling? [Q23]: Amplify, Inc. CRS, 2022



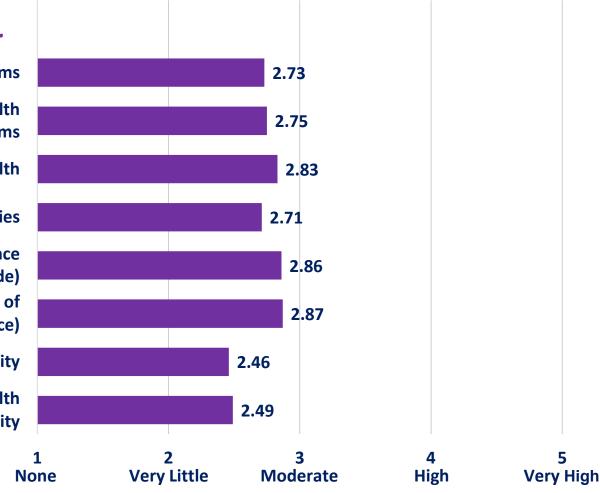
Center for Prevention Evaluation and Statistic How aware are community residents that there are resources available for persons affected (significant others, spouses, and children) from problem gambling such as individual counseling and support? [Q24]: Amplify, Inc. CRS, 2022



# Overall Community Readiness



### Community Readiness to Undertake Behavioral Health Promotion Activities\* [Q28]: Amplify, Inc. CRS, 2022



#### Key Informant believes that the community is ready to....

Collect data on the nature of local behavioral health problems Identify community members as resources to address behavioral health problems

Secure support from local policy makers for behavioral health

#### Develop culturally appropriate programs and strategies

Raise community awareness of priority problems or issues (substance misuse, gambling, mental health, suicide) Collaborate with organizations concerned with preventing other types of problems (HIV, violence)

Allocate local funds to address behavioral health problems in the community

Develop policies related to or to specifically address behavioral health problems in the community

\*Behavioral Health Promotion Activities includes substance misuse prevention and mental health promotion activities.



### Key Informant Ratings of the Community Stage of Readiness for <u>Substance Misuse Prevention</u> [Q29]: Amplify, Inc. CRS, 2022

Community Stage of Readiness for Substance Misuse Prevention: Amplify, Inc. (weighted n=240)	
Mean=5.25 (SD=2.23)	Percent
1 - This town/city tolerates or encourages substance misuse.	5.3
2 - This town/city has little or no recognition of the substance misuse problem.	5.8
3 - This town/city believes that there is a substance misuse problem, but awareness of the issue is only linked to one or two incidents involving substance misuse.	12.7
4 - This town/city recognizes the substance misuse problem and leaders on the issue are identifiable, but little planning has been done to address problems and risk factors.	15.7
5 - This town/city is planning for substance misuse prevention and focuses on practical details, including seeking funds for prevention efforts.	18.2
6 - This town/city has enough information to justify a substance misuse prevention program and there is great enthusiasm for the initiative as it begins.	6.1
7 - This town/city has created policies and/or more than one substance misuse prevention program is running with financial support and trained staff.	16.9
8 - This town/city views standard substance misuse programs as valuable, new programs are being developed to reach out to at-risk populations and there is ongoing sophisticated evaluation of current efforts.	12.2
9 - This town/city has detailed and sophisticated knowledge of prevalence, risk factors, and substance misuse program effectiveness and the programming is tailored by trained staff to address risk factors within the community.	7.1



## Key Informant Ratings of the Community Stage of Readiness for <u>Mental Health Promotion</u> [Q30]: Amplify, Inc. CRS, 2022

Community Stage of Readiness for Mental Health Promotion: Amplify, Inc. (weighted n=240) Mean=4.91 (SD=1.93)	Percent
1 - This town/city is unsupportive of those with mental health issues.	1.3
2 - This town/city has little or no recognition of the community's concern about mental health.	10.1
3 - This town/city believes that mental health concerns impact the community, but awareness of the issue is only linked to one or two situations involving mental health.	8.6
4 - This town/city recognizes the mental health concerns of the community and leaders on the issue are identifiable, but little planning has been done to address problems and risk factors.	29.4
5 - This town/city is planning for mental health promotion programs and focuses on practical details, including seeking funds for awareness efforts.	16.3
6 - This town/city has enough information to justify a mental health promotion program and there is great enthusiasm for the initiative as it begins.	13.8
7 - This town/city has created policies and/or more than one mental health promotion program is running with financial support and trained staff.	6.6
8 - This town/city views standard mental health promotion programs as valuable, new programs are being developed to reach out to at-risk populations and there is ongoing sophisticated evaluation of current efforts.	9.2
9 - This town/city has detailed and sophisticated knowledge of prevalence, risk factors, and mental health promotion program effectiveness and the programming is tailored by trained staff to address risk factors within the community.	4.6